



NEWS RELEASE

October 1, 2010

U.S. Designates \$1.4 Million for Anti-Kidnapping and Hostage Negotiation and Rescue Training, Donates \$150,000 Worth of Anti-Terrorism Equipment and Vehicles to PNP

On October 1, U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas Jr. announced that in light of the recent hostage tragedy, the U.S. has allotted \$1.4 Million (approximately 61,390,000 pesos) in training and equipment assistance to assist the PNP in developing and implementing a comprehensive Anti-Kidnapping/Hostage Negotiation (AKHN) Training Program. The assistance will include anti-kidnapping and hostage negotiation as well as rescue and recovery operations.

“Even without links to international criminal organizations, crimes can become international incidents, as we saw in the tragic events of August 23. The threats cross our borders – on land as well as at sea. No country can face them alone,” Ambassador Thomas said.

Ambassador Thomas made the remarks at a ceremony hosted by Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Director General Raul Bacalzo at Camp Crame in Quezon City, for the official turnover of vehicles, motorcycles, and digital forensics training equipment to the PNP. The donation was made through the U.S. Department of State Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program (DS/ATA) and will support the PNP’s fight against crime and terrorism.

The donation includes:

- Three pickup trucks for Manila, Zamboanga and South Cotabato Explosive Ordnance Units mainly to facilitate post-blast investigations;
- Six motorcycles for the Intelligence Units in Regions 9, 12 and ARMM; and
- Equipment for a Digital Forensics Training Laboratory which will be located at the Directorate for Investigations and Detective Management Training School.

The value of the grant is approximately \$150,000 (approximately 6,577,500 pesos).

“Crimes may occur in local communities, but more and more they are linked to national and international crime networks who engage in smuggling of drugs, weapons, and even people. What is worse is that illicit proceeds of those crimes often provide funding for terrorism,” said Ambassador Thomas.

Joint training exercises have also been conducted under the auspices of the DS/ATA.

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